

ACTION FOR PET-INCLUSIVE HOUSING: KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Best Practices for Housing Advocacy and Support

08 GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL HOUSING ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Ultimately, housing advocacy requires cross-sector collaboration and support. Involve your voice and organization to local efforts to build additional housing while advocating for pet-inclusive policies.

DATA COLLECTION 01

Include questions or categories within surrender processes to understand what sort of housing issues are most common. *Suggested categories include Landlord Restrictions, Homelessness, Eviction/Foreclosure, and Domestic Violence.*

07 IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT AND TRAIN STAFF

This is particularly important if new data is being collected.

- The impact of housing barriers on pet families
- Definitions of housing-related surrender categories for optimal data quality.
- Triaging calls from the community around pets and housing issues.

06 UNDERSTAND STATE/LOCAL TENANCY RIGHTS

Fears of eviction can trigger pet surrenders.

- Is your state more tenant or landlord protective?
- Search for tenant-assistance resources around eviction to become familiar with the process.
- Identify any eviction prevention or landlord mediation resources.

05 CONDUCT BASIC HOUSING MARKET RESEARCH

- Search online to identify larger rental apartment communities with friendly pet policies.
- Keep a running list to share with the broader community via website or social media.
- Reach out to non-profit housing providers to inquire if their housing programs accept families with pets.
- Confirm the pet policies of your local Housing Authority.
- Identify any emergency shelters that allow pets.

IDENTIFY TRENDS 02

What are the most common housing-related factors driving surrenders? What are the characteristics of the pets being surrendered? These results will inform next steps to identifying resources or new partners needed to support.

COLLECT STORIES ON THE IMPACT OF HOUSING ON PET FAMILIES 03

How are pet-families most impacted by housing barriers? Advocating for more pet-inclusive housing or emergency shelter will involve sharing these stories with stakeholders and decision-makers.

IDENTIFY RESOURCES AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS 04

Most communities will have specific response systems or organizations to address housing issues. This can include emergency shelter providers, local Public Housing Authorities, Non-Profit Organizations, or State/Local Programs.

For example: If homelessness is a highly cited factor, the local homeless response coalition called a Continuum of Care (CoC) is the right partner. Often, a CoC will also include affordable housing providers alongside emergency shelter providers. They may also have resources for eviction prevention.